

The racial make-up of the county changed dramatically through international migration, and also as Baltimore City residents moved to the suburbs over the last two decades. In 1970, the non-white population in Baltimore County was 22,858. In 1998, the minority population had grown to 140,355. Many local physicians are not trained in the special needs of this changing population.

Objective 1 - By 2010, reduce the number of uninsured children by 50% through enrollment in Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) (Baseline = 16,000 uninsured children) and reduce the number of uninsured adults by 5% through enrollment in low-cost health insurance programs (Baseline = 70,000 uninsured adults).

Action Steps

- ⇒ By 2001, establish a liaison in each of the 92 public elementary schools to educate families about MCHP and assist with the enrollment process.
- ⇒ By 2001, develop a comprehensive plan to reach families at health fairs and related school and community events for enrollment in MCHP
- ⇒ By 2001, develop a long-term focused media plan to reach eligible families for enrollment in MCHP.
- ⇒ Starting in 2001, secure additional enrollment slots in The Partnership. (350 average per year).

Objective 2 - By 2005, develop a method to ensure that County residents have reasonable transportation to and from medical appointments. (Baseline - No plan exists)

Action Steps

- ⇒ By 2002, evaluate all current transportation programs operating in the County, including the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (which provides sedan, wheelchair van, and ambulance service to appointments for Medical Assistance clients), CountyRide (for seniors), MTA (public bus system). Summarize all studies which have addressed transportation barriers in the county.
- ⇒ By 2004, convene a task force of health care and related providers to address the summary findings from the above and prepare report with recommendations.
- ⇒ By 2005, identify agencies responsible for implementation of above recommendations and identify possible sources of funding.
- ⇒ By 2005, convene a multi-agency task force to implement recommendations from the task force.

Objective 3 - By 2006, develop a plan to address major cultural and language barriers
(Baseline: No plan exists)

Action Steps

- ⇒ By 2002, analyze race and language elements from the 2000 Census.
- ⇒ By 2003, conduct focus groups in areas identified with significant minority or foreign language areas of the county.
- ⇒ By 2003, convene a committee to review results of findings and prepare recommendations.
- ⇒ By 2004, publish report and share findings with other agencies and providers.

Partial list of Partners

Baltimore County Dental Association • Baltimore County Health Department • Baltimore County Department of Social Services • Baltimore County Health Council • Baltimore County Medical Association • Baltimore County School System • Greater Baltimore Medical Center • Kaiser Permanente • Maryland Mass Transit Administration • St. Joseph Medical Center

References

U.S. Census Bureau, Maryland and Baltimore County Departments of Planning. (1999). *Baltimore County health profile update*. Report.

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